

California State Senate

SENATOR
LOIS WOLK
THIRD SENATE DISTRICT

Senate Bill 42

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Flood Protection Act

By Senator Lois Wolk

Summary

SB 42, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Flood Protection Act, will provide funding to immediately address the crisis in the Delta, provide water treatment for communities without safe water, increase flood safety, and secure water supply reliability throughout California.

Background

California faces critical water challenges in the next decade. Legal battles and controversial projects have slowed the response to the ecosystem crisis in the Delta. Small communities throughout the Central Valley lack access to safe drinking water. Our cities face some of the highest flood risks of any metropolitan area in the country. Climate change is stressing water supplies throughout California.

Funding to meet these water challenges is dwindling. Yet, controversy and lack of fiscal restraint have resulted in water bond proposals that are not viable and cannot be supported by California's voters.

This Bill

Provides \$6.475 billion in funding for projects that will address California's critical needs, including:

- Urgent drinking water treatment for communities that do not currently have access to safe water
- Wastewater treatment to protect California's rivers, streams and beaches
- Community supported habitat restoration in the Delta
- Delta levee stability funding to reduce the risk of levee failure due to flood, earthquake and sea-level rise
- Regional water supply development, including recycled water, groundwater storage and water conservation
- Water storage, including groundwater storage and clean up
- Flood protection and stormwater management
- Watershed restoration throughout California

SB 42 provides funding for competitive projects while avoiding specific earmarks.

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